



white-footed mouse

Peromyscus leucopus

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
Class: Mammalia
Order: Rodentia
Family: Muridae

Features

The white-footed mouse is five to eight inches long, including a 2 1/2 to four-inch tail. It has bulging, black eyes. The body is red-brown with a dark band down the middle of the back. The belly and feet are white. The tail is dark above and light below and is longer than the length of its head-body.

Natural History

The white-footed mouse prefers wooded or brushy areas but will live in nearly any terrestrial habitat. It is found on or above the ground in such locations as hollow logs, stumps, trees, abandoned bird's nests, and in thickets. This mouse eats mainly seeds and other vegetation, insects, and spiders. It is active at night (nocturnal). It is believed that white-footed mice mate throughout the year and young may be born in any month. Litter size is four or five. Young are helpless at birth but are ready to live on their own after one month.

Habitats

bottomland forests

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.